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10/553,589

06/22/2006

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EXAMINER

HARTMANN, GARY S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3671

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/29/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/553,589

Applicant(s)

DONALDSON, STEVEN M.

Examiner

Gary Hartmann

Art Unit

3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/17/5</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the first sentence is a run-on type sentence and the remainder refers to the purported merits of the invention. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: "memberat" (line 2) should be --member at--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McLeod (U.S. Patent 3,705,746).

McLeod discloses a portable device including a chassis (10) having a water tank (40) adapted to receive snow (via 100) mounted thereon. There is a heating mechanism (Figure 3) and a fluid dispenser (112).

There is a controller (116) for regulating water dispersion.

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A hopper is used to receive snow.

There is a dispensing bar. This bar is inherently capable of being removed, thereby meeting claim recitations.

The method is performed by McLeod. Regarding the recitation of an outdoor rink, since McLeod is for use on a rink, and since McLeod does not specify that the rink is indoors, this limitation is met.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLeod, as applied above.

McLeod does not teach the toboggan-like configuration; however, this is a common configuration to use on devices which move over snow and/or ice. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included this configuration in order to best suit a particular application.

The heating chamber is adjacent to, but not in the water tank. It is known to use this configuration in order to provide a greater heating surface area to a material. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have positioned the heating chamber of McLeod within the water tank.

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A filtering device is not disclosed; however, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a filtering device in order to prevent clogging of the dispersion system.

Regarding the relative chassis height, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have lowered the chassis in order to lower the center of gravity as desired.

The dispensing bar is not disclosed to be telescoping; however, it is known to use telescoping configurations in order to maximize a work area while minimizing transport/storage area. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a telescoping configuration with McLeod.

As discussed above, McLeod does not specify an outdoor rink. Because outdoor rinks are common, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used McLeod on an outdoor rink in order to obtain a desired finish thereon.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

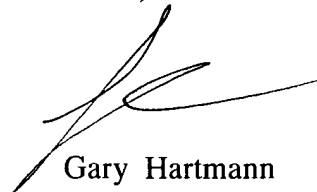
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary Hartmann whose telephone number is 571-272-6989. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday, 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Will can be reached on 571-272-6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

gh



Gary Hartmann
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3671